

Frederick County Ethics Commission Minutes for the Public Meeting of Monday, December 20, 2010

Present: Andrew T. Jones, Chairman
Karl W. Bickel, Commission Member
Paula C. Bell, Commission Member
E. Donald Foster, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on December 20, 2010, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. Prior to convening the public meeting, the Ethics Commission met to hold an administrative function meeting. At the administrative function meeting, the Ethics Commission obtained information regarding a request for reconsideration of an earlier Advisory Opinion and discussed the application of the Ethics Ordinance to that request.

Request for comments on the Public Ethics Law – County Commissioner Blaine Young discussed the status of a proposal to repeal the Public Ethics Law and asked for comments and recommendations from the Ethics Commission on that proposal. Commissioner Young then left the meeting. The members of the Ethics Commission discussed the proposal and the position of the Ethics Commission. The Commission asked the Senior Assistant County Attorney to draft a letter for the Chairman's signature recommending that the Board of County Commissioners table the request for one year so that the request for a repeal or amendment of the Law could be considered after all members of the Board had experience with the Law. The letter would indicate that the Law did not violate the First Amendment, that there was no evidence that the administration of the law was an undue burden on the Commissioners or County staff, and that the reporting required by the Law made it more likely that problems that the Law was created to remedy, such as conflicts of interest and the appearance of undue influence, could be avoided.

2010 Final Annual Report on the Public Ethics Law – The 2010 Final Report on the Public Ethics Law, prepared by the County Manager's Office, was distributed to the members of the Ethics Commission at the meeting.

Approval of the minutes – The Commission considered the minutes from its November 15, 2010 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Bell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:50 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney